

JAN 31 1962

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ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS--SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT CONGRESS WOULD NOT BE PREJUDICED AGAINST HIS ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM IN LATIN AMERICA BY THE OPPOSITION OF SOME OF SOUTH AMERICA'S LARGEST GOVERNMENTS AT THE PUNTA DEL ESTE CONFERENCE. "WHAT HAS HAPPENED RECENTLY, IN MY OPINION, MAKES MORE DESIRABLE AND ESSENTIAL THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS," KENNEDY SAID. ANY DECISION REGARDING A CUT-OFF IN TRADE WITH CUBA WAITS DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK, WHO IS HEADING BACK FROM PUNTA DEL ESTE, HE SAID.

CIA--CONCEDED THAT HE HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER SUPERVISION OF U. S. INTELLIGENCE WORK, INCLUDING ACTIVITY BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. BUT HE SAID THERE IS CONTROL OF THESE FUNCTIONS--BY GEN. MAXWELL D. TAYLOR, HIS MILITARY ADVISER, AND CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES THAT HANDLE THE CIA BUDGET.

CIVIL RIGHTS--ASKED WHETHER HIS ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO PRESS LEGISLATION IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL RIGHTS, KENNEDY NOTED THAT A BILL TO REPEAL LITERACY TESTS AS A VOTING QUALIFICATION HAS BEEN INTRODUCED. HE SAID SECRETARY OF LABOR ARTHUR J. GOLDBERG HAS COMMENTED ON THE NUMBER OF BILLS CONGRESS RECEIVED LAST YEAR.

KENNEDY DREW LAUGHTER SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE HALF-HOUR CONFERENCE. A REPORTER ASKED HOW HE THOUGHT REPUBLICANS WOULD FAIR IN NEXT NOVEMBER'S ELECTIONS, OBSERVING THAT THE GOP IS HOLDING LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES AROUND THE COUNTRY. KENNEDY SAID, "I DON'T KNOW WHO IS GIVING THE LEADERSHIP DIRECTION, BUT I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL HAVE A VARIED PROGRAM." HE AVOIDED ANY NOVEMBER FORECAST.

AS54X

AT ANOTHER POINT, WHEN ASKED ABOUT SALINGER'S YOUTH AND ABILITIES, KENNEDY SAID HE HAD ALSO READ A STORY CHARGING HIS PRESS SECRETARY'S MAIN FUNCTION WAS "TO INCREASE MY STANDING IN THE GALLUP POLL." HE ADDED: "HAVING DONE THAT, HE IS NOW MOVING ON."

A CROWD OF 420 NEWSMEN AND OBSERVERS ATTENDED THE NEWS CONFERENCE--ONE OF THE LARGEST AUDIENCES KENNEDY HAS ATTRACTED. THE PRESENCE OF THE ADZNUBEIS, WHO SAT WITH ANOTHER SOVIET EDITOR, GEORGI BOLSHAKOV, AND MRS. SALINGER IN THE NINTH ROW OF THE AUDITORIUM, FURNISHED ADDITIONAL INTEREST.

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